

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the rejections contained in the Office Action of May 15, 2007 is respectfully requested.

By this Amendment, claims 1-3 and 7-9 have been amended, and claims 4-6 and 10-12 have been cancelled. Thus, claims 1-3 and 7-9 are currently pending in the application. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

The entire specification has been reviewed and revised. Due to the number of revisions, the amendments to the specification have been incorporated into the attached substitute specification. For the Examiner's benefit, a marked-up copy of the specification indicating the changes made thereto is also enclosed. No new matter has been added by the revisions. Entry of the substitute specification is thus respectfully requested.

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claim 1 due to an informality. In particular, the Examiner indicated that the phrase "the computer" should be replaced with the phrase "the first computer" in order to provide proper antecedent basis for the recited limitation. In this regard, it is noted that claim 1 has been amended so as to replace the phrase "the computer" with the phrase "the first computer" as suggested by the Examiner. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's objection is not applicable to amended claim 1.

On page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 4-6 and 10-12 contain allowable subject matter, and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, in order to place the claims in condition for allowance, independent claims 1-3 and 7-9 have been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 4-6 and 10-12, respectively. In view of the Examiner's indication of the allowability of claims 4-6 and 10-12, it is respectfully submitted that amended claims 1-3 and 7-9 are clearly in condition for allowance.

On pages 2-4 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3 and 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Yamagishi (US 2003/0025796). However, as discussed above, claims 1-3 and 7-9 have been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 4-6 and

10-12, respectively. In view of the Examiner's indication of the allowability of claims 4-6 and 10-12, it is respectfully submitted that amended claims 1-3 and 7-9 are clearly patentable over the prior art of record.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is clearly in condition for allowance. An early notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If, after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner feels there are any issues remaining which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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